

# Civic Center as Culture Complex Studied

Plans to designate the Torrance Civic Center as a regional cultural center for the entire Southwestern section of Los Angeles County will be considered by the City Council Tuesday evening.

Designation of the Civic Center would qualify the city for federal and state subvention in the development of the city's master plan for a recreational and cultural complex.

The council will also consider designation of the Torrance Naval Supply Depot as a regional recreation park under the same program.

The council will be asked to act on recommendations by the Park and Recreation Commission and Harry Van Bellehem, director of the recreation. Van Bellehem hopes to have the civic center and the proposed park marked for regional use on a five-county

recreation master plan now being drawn for Los Angeles and other Southern California Counties.

"It makes good sense to designate the civic center as a cultural center," Van Bellehem told THE HERALD this week. "Only Torrance has the potential for such development."

Purpose of the civic center designation would be to qualify for federal aid in developing the city auditorium, recreation center, and library facilities in the civic center complex. As a regional facility, the complex could qualify for 30 per cent aid from the federal government under the five-county master plan.

Designation of the Naval Supply Depot as a recreational park would give the city first choice when, and if, the land is declared surplus. The city would also qualify for federal aid for development of the park.

Van Bellehem also said the state would provide additional aid for development of the park of the Cameron-Unruh Recreation Bond Act is approved by the state's voters this year.

The federal government program was developed to provide encouragement and assistance in the development of major cultural and recreational facilities. The law requires regional plans covering several counties. Presently, the Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission is trying to develop a regional plan with commissions in Orange, San Diego, and parts of San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

Torrance currently has only one major facility which has been designated as a regional facility. That is Torrance Beach, and work is scheduled to begin there in a few weeks on a soil erosion control program which

will create more than twice the present beach area. The beach program will be financed by the country, state, and federal governments.

The master plan for the Torrance Civic Center calls for the construction of a major auditorium and a regional library, and for the completion of the Torrance Recreation Center and the Joslyn Recreation Center. A Japanese Garden is being considered.

Regional facilities in the southwestern area now include the South Coast Botanical Gardens, Alondra Park, and the Los Verdes Golf Course, now under construction. Cultural facilities include the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium and the Long Beach Municipal Auditorium and Sports Arena. Several parks or special facilities have been proposed, including seashore development along the Palos Verdes Peninsula.

Your Complete Community Newspaper  
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## Torrance Herald

Don't Leave Home  
Half Dressed  
(Count Marco, Page 2)

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### A Penny for your Thoughts

The Pennies photographer asked several persons this week, "What are the advantages of exchange programs such as those sponsored by the American Field Service?"

Anne Marie Horn, exchange student from Norway:

"The program is absolutely fabulous. You get to know the people and see their habits and know their wishes. The experience helps to create understanding and allows us to know the country much better."

Hymie Luboff, exchange student from North Africa:

"It is a fantastic program. We get to see the other side of the story, not like tourists, but as we live here. You learn more about the people, their culture, and their habits. It gives us the ability to understand the other point of view and build something for peace."

Mrs. Lela Porter, 1026 Elm Ave.:

"I think the program helps to draw everyone much closer together. It removes the feeling of distance and helps to create a basis for understanding between countries. I think it is a wonderful program."

Mrs. Dean L. Sears, 1635 Post Ave.:

"I am a charter member of the local AFS chapter and I think it is a very fine program. Many students have formed clubs after returning countries and their clubs give our own summer students an entree to European homes."

Mrs. Mary Lenk, 1103 Kornblum Ave.:

"I think it is good that exchange students can go to other countries. It gives them a chance to discover what the countries and the people have in common, and to get to know each other."

### Signals Approved

New traffic signal heads to coordinate with railroad warning signals will be installed at the Alameda and Carson streets intersection in the Dominguez area.

# First Grade Student Dies Under School Bus Wheels



NEWEST ENTRY . . . Susi Nelson (far right) became the newest entry in the Miss Torrance Beauty Contest Friday when she filed the application with the Torrance Chamber of Commerce. Other late entries include, from left, Rennie DeLeon, 20; Susan Johnson, 18; Diane Turner, 18; and Alice Becerra, 19. Miss Nelson, who is 18, borrowed the shoulder of contest chairman Flavio Bisignano to complete her application. (Herald Photo)

## Red Cross Drive Short of Quota

Twenty-one per cent of the \$8,700 Red Cross goal for the City of Torrance had been collected at the halfway mark in the March drive, according to Keith Pischell, chairman of the local Red Cross drive. This represents a four per cent increase over contributions this time last year.

Volunteers are working residential areas, business and commerce, and industry to raise the city's share of the \$3,300,000 Los Angeles Red Cross goal. Goals for fund drives are based on estimates of disaster expenditures in the nation.

PISCHELL commented that the public's awareness of the Red Cross role in emergencies such as the brush fires in the Los Angeles area and the extensive assistance Red Cross is giving to eastern flood victims may account for the local fund drive's impetus.

Red Cross spent more than \$2,000 this past week for emergency relief in connection with the Los Angeles fires. Funds needed for rehabilitation have not been estimated as yet.

Survey of the eastern flood disaster shows that 29,424 families have been affected, and although Red Cross expects the cost will run into the millions the national March fund quota

will not be increased. However, extra effort is needed to insure the original goal is met, according to Pischell.

**COST BREAKDOWN** of Red Cross operations include 13 cents of every dollar contribution slated to assist victims of more than 300 annual major disasters in the United States. The relief agency estimates it costs \$2.09 per day per person for emergency shelter alone. This figure raises daily expenditure to an excess of \$14,000 in the current eastern flood disaster. The emergency relief represents only 15 per cent of the eventual cost. Rehabilitation and repair will make the heaviest demand.

Pischell in commenting on the local campaign at this date urged persons who are not personally called upon this week to send Red Cross donations to the regional office at 390 W. 7th St., San Pedro.

## City Begins Annual Hunt For Beauty

Five more young ladies have entered the 1964 Miss Torrance contest, bringing the total number of hopefuls to seven.

The five latest entries are Susi Nelson, 18; Rennie DeLeon, 20; Susan Johnson, 18; Diane Turner, 18, and Alice Becerra, 19. Lora Morrow and Carolyn Kimes also are entered in the contest.

Entries will be accepted at the Torrance Chamber of Commerce until 5 p.m. April 13. The contest will be held at the Torrance Recreation Center Friday, April 17.

**TO BE ELIGIBLE** for the contest, entrants must be between 17 and 25 years of age on the day of the contest, a high school graduate or a member of the 1964 graduating class, single, and a resident of Torrance.

Flavio Bisignano, general chairman for the contest, said the competition is not a bathing beauty contest. "Contestants will wear semi-formal dresses and will be judged on overall attractiveness, poise, speech, and charm." The winner will represent the city at various functions during the year, including the Tournament of Roses Parade.

THE NEW Miss Torrance will be crowned by the reigning (Continued on Page 2)

## Driver Didn't See Lad

A first grade student at Bonita Street School in the Carson area was crushed to death under the wheels of a school bus late Thursday afternoon.

Efforts of a school doctor, who was not identified, to revive Tommy Ray Agee, 6, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Agee of 22115 Selwin Ave., were unsuccessful.

Police investigating the accident said there were no witnesses. The driver of the school bus, James S. Smith, 46, of Lakewood, said he heard screams and felt a bump as he pulled away from the curb. Smith said he stopped immediately. He told officers he did not see the boy.

THE YOUTH attended first grade at Bonita Street School and had been dismissed from class only moments before the accident. He was killed when the rear wheels of the bus crushed his chest. Officers assumed he was standing near the bus as it left the curb.

Smith told officers he had been driving a school bus for 12 years without an accident.

The boy, who lived a short three blocks from the school, did not ride the bus. He walked to and from school each day.

Graveside services for the youth will be held at Westminster Memorial Park tomorrow at 10 a.m. McNeerney's Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by two brothers, Michael, 7, and Samuel, 5, and two sisters, Elizabeth, 5, and Patricia, 2.

## State Approves Freeway Funds

Funds for the installation of an emergency diesel generator in the pumping plant at the Carson Street overcrossing with the Harbor Freeway were approved by the State Highway Commission last week.

The commission allocated \$30,000 for the project. The pumping plant at the Carson Street location is used to dispose of storm waters collected from a 1.5-mile section of the eight-lane Harbor Freeway.



BIRTHDAYS GALORE . . . The John Watson family of Torrance can enjoy two Christmases each year, or at least it seems that way. Six birthdays, four of them falling on the same day, were observed last week at the home. Shown gathering around the birthday cake are (seated): the Watson triplets, David, DeWayne, and Daniel, who were 4 yesterday; John Watson, who celebrated his birthday Friday; Mrs. Watson, who observed her birthday last Sunday; and Clark Demland, the boys' grandfather, who celebrates his birthday with the three youngsters. (Herald Photo)

## Triplets, Grandpa, Mom And Dad Fete Birthdays

By JERRY REYNOLDS  
Herald Staff Writer

Christmas, it seems, comes twice a year at the John Watson home in North Torrance.

There's always the family gathering on Christmas Day and the exchange of gifts, to the delight of three youngsters who were all born on the same day. And, come March, the family meets again to celebrate six birthdays at one time.

Well, almost six birthdays at one time.

It all began four years ago when Mr. and Mrs. John Watson became parents of three bouncing baby boys—born just three minutes after midnight March 21. They missed by one day their father's birthday, but the triplets became the best

birthday present any grandfather could ever want.

The grandfather, Clark Demland, now joins each year in observing his birthday along with David, Daniel, and DeWayne. Demland was 57 yesterday and the boys were four.

That's four birthdays all on the same day, and from there, it gets a bit more improbable. Mrs. Watson observes her birthday just one week before her sons observe theirs, on March 15, and their father gets his birthday gifts the day before the triplets open their gifts.

The chances of giving birth to triplets is one in 800,000 times, and nobody has ever figured out the chances of giving birth to triplets on their grandfather's birthday. But Mrs. Demland, going out on a limb, says she'd bet her husband's the only grandfather in the country who has three grandchildren sharing his birthday.

With that lineup of birthdays, the family usually has its own party—generally held on an evening somewhere between March 15 and March 21. But the relatives will toss a party or two, and before it's over, the family is usually hon-

ored at three or four parties.

This year, however, the whole family threw in another party. When I knocked on the door this week, keeping my appointment for an interview, I was greeted by the three boys, a friendly birthday cake, and a round of "Happy Birthday"—all to remind me that today's my birthday!

Mrs. Watson observes her birthday just one week before her sons observe theirs, on March 15, and their father gets his birthday gifts the day before the triplets open their gifts.

## Chace Alone In Vote Bid

Supervisor Burton W. Chace—for the third consecutive time—finds himself alone on the ballot in his bid for reelection to the post.

With the deadline for filing passing Friday evening and no other candidate coming forward, Chace is assured of reelection.

The Fourth District Supervisor was first appointed to post on March 20, 1953 to fill the vacancy left by the death of Supervisor Raymond V. Darby of Inglewood. Supervisor Chace has twice served as chairman of the five-man board.

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